Modernisation plan from Visakhapatnam Airport

946. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam airport in Andhra Pradesh is to get sophisticated navigational equipment as a part of its Rs. 75 lakhs modernisation plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan and by when it would be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Visakhapatnam airport belongs to Indian Navy. National Airports Authority has no plans for provision of additional navigational equipment at Visakhapatnam.

Funds provided to States for repair and maintenance of roads

947. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the event of damage to the bridges on national highways, traffic is generally diverted through the state roads;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State roads are badly damaged as a result thereof and are usually made incapable to carry such heavy loads;

(c) whether Government provide adequate compensation to State Governments for repair and maintenance of such State roads; and

(d) if so, what is the amount of funds provided to States for this purpose during the Seventh Five Year Plan period so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Instances of such diversions do occur leading to temporary increase in the use of State roads and consequential wear and tear. No payment to the State Governments is made towards this as the development and maintenance of State roads is the responsibility of the respective State Governments.

Strengthening of bridges and culverts on national highways

948. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the small bridges and culverts on the national highways which are more than 50 years old need to be replaced or strengthened substantially;

(b) if so, whether any action in this regard is being contemplated during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(c) if so, what is the State-wise break up of the measures which were undertaken, those which were completed and those which are still in progress; and

(d) what are the details of proposals submitted by the Orissa Government in this regard for inclusion in the next Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. 120 crores has been provided in the Seventh Five Year Plan for sanctioning the works of widening/reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts.

(c) State-wise break up of works completed and in progress, is given in the statement attached. (*See* below).

(d) It is too early to frame proposals for the next Five Year Plan.